



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Municipal Services Committee Minutes

June 5th, 2024

Ngande Ambroise, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Presentation by NYC Department of Transportation Bronx Borough Commissioner on the Bruckner Blvd School Safety Plan.

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise leads meeting on school safety improvement in NYC.

School safety and greenway design in NYC.

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise and Mr. Anthony Perez, Borough Commissioner for the Department of Transportation discuss improving safety and along Bruckner Boulevard.
- Mr. Anthony Perez discussed school outreach for safety concerns in The South Bronx, and proposed operational changes.
- DOT official Mr. Nick Carey discussed Greenway operation, including minor operational changes and proposing something more substantial for bigger impact.

Improving safety on Bruckner Boulevard, focusing on school sites.

- Mr. Nick Carey discusses community input on Greenway route through Mott Haven, focusing on Bruckner Boulevard as preferred near-term option.
- Mr. Nick Carey outlines goals for DOT on Bruckner Boulevard, including making it safer and improving access to schools while also thinking big about greenway design.
- Mr. Nick Carey highlights the majority of injuries on the Bruckner Boulevard corridor are to motor vehicle occupants (70%).
- The corridor is experiencing a shift in land use, with more residential and commercial development, leading to increased pedestrian traffic.

Street design issues near a school, including wide streets, long crossing distances, and double parking.

- Mr. Nick Carey highlights the dangers of a wide street for pedestrians, particularly children, with long crossing distances and few crosswalks.
- Excess street width leads to speeding near a school, putting pedestrians at greater risk.
- Mr. Nick Carey describes double parking issues outside a school, including illegal U-turns and high loading demand for businesses.
- The intersection of Willis Avenue is unusual and has long pedestrian crossings, with different land uses on either side of the street.

Traffic safety issues in NYC intersections.

- Mr. Nick Carey describes a dangerous intersection near the Willis Avenue Bridge, highlighting the challenges for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Mr. Nick Carey also presents a proposal to address safety concerns at the South Bronx charter school site, including the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks.

Improving pedestrian safety on Bruckner Boulevard.

- Mr. Nick Carey discusses proposal for Bruckner Boulevard corridor, similar to Willis Avenue.
- Protected bike lanes improve pedestrian safety by reducing speed, shortening crossing distances, and improving visibility.
- Mr. Nick Carey proposes converting Willis Avenue into a one-way street southbound, adding a signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing, and installing a two-way protected bike lane.
- The proposal includes exclusive pedestrian crossing time at four intersections, a painted shared space with pedestrian priority in front of the school, and a four-foot wide painted medium to prevent U-turns.

Improving pedestrian safety at a school crossing.

- Mr. Nick Carey explains design of midblock crossing with island and pedestrian signal phases.
- Proposal removes 10 parking spaces to accommodate crossing improvements.
- Mr. Nick Carey highlights the importance of protected bike lanes in front of schools, addressing common negative reactions and sharing examples of successful implementations.

- Mr. Nick Carey discusses the design elements of a protected bike lane, including the use of random blocks and planters, and the importance of establishing a continued relationship with the school and community.

Traffic improvements for Bronx neighborhoods.

- Mr. Nick Carey proposes converting Willis Avenue to one-way southbound to improve traffic flow and install a large painted curb extension.
- Mr. Nick Carey explains the benefits of converting Bruckner Boulevard to a one-way street.
- Proposal aims to improve pedestrian access and safety at six locations in the Bronx.

Improving street safety and pedestrian friendliness.

- Mr. Nick Carey discusses street redesign process, highlighting internal in-house project vs. consultant-led approach.
- Mr. Nick Carey emphasizes importance of communication, adjustment period, and making quick changes when possible.
- The intersection design is challenging because drivers get frustrated with long wait times and try to rush through the lights, leading to accidents.
- The team revisits past projects to make changes to accommodate the needs of all roadway users, including pedestrians and drivers.

Bike lane route planning on the Bruckner.

- Member Herman Francis Jr. and Mr. Nick Carey discuss reducing speed limits for school zones.
- Mr. Anthony Perez provides context on the plan's origination and stakeholder considerations.
- Members discuss routing bike lanes to avoid difficult land use, prioritizing safety over convenience.

Improving school drop-off safety, including reducing double parking and increasing enforcement.

- Mr. Anthony Perez proposes a longer-term waterfront route for cyclists and pedestrians, while Mr. Nick Carey focuses on improving local streets and addressing land use issues.
- Mr. Nick Carey highlights the challenge of redesigning streets without considering the needs of cyclists, and suggests a gradual approach to addressing these issues.
- Mr. Nick Carey explains that the design of the street will not accommodate double parking, which could be a problem for parents dropping off children at school.

- The group discusses the possibility of designating parking spots for yellow buses, but it's unclear where these spots would be located.
- Member Freddy Perez asks how parents are supposed to drop their kids without a proper location as yellow buses don't move after dropping off students, causing congestion and safety concerns.
- Parents double park on opposite side of street to cross mid-block, creating a problem for drivers and highlighting the need for safer crossing options.

Traffic flow and congestion in a neighborhood.

- Mr. Nick Carey explains traffic analysis involves collecting data on intersection turning movements.
- Engineers analyze traffic data to optimize traffic flow near a bridge.
- Mr. Nick Carey discusses challenges with traffic flow in the area west of Willis Avenue, including congestion and demand exceeding capacity.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto explains that traffic signals are designed to give green lights to traffic moving in different directions to improve traffic flow.

Traffic signal timing and lighting improvements for safer pedestrian crossings.

- Plans to install leading pedestrian interval at four intersections to reduce injuries.
- The new traffic signal phasing plan would prioritize pedestrian safety by flipping Bruckner Boulevard to one-way southbound and eliminating the northbound phase.
- The plan would also improve lighting and signage to ensure visibility for all users, especially during winter months and changes to the shared space.

Street improvement project with various components.

- Mr. Anthony Perez: No current plan to add new lighting as part of proposal.
- Mr. Nick Carey: Adding reflective material to pedestrian spaces to improve visibility.
- Mr. Nick Carey mentions construction for the street project will be subtle, but construction for new signal will be more intense.
- Mr. Anthony Perez highlights the beauty of using existing contracts for the street project, avoiding the need to find allocated money.

Traffic safety measures and design improvements for shared spaces.

- Mr. Anthony Perez explains that the construction work needs to be done in warmer months due to temperature and dryness requirements.
- Mr. Anthony Perez highlights the importance of education, enforcement, and engineering in supporting division zero.

- Engineers and enforcement work together to design safer streets for all users, including mopeds and e-bikes.

Traffic congestion and potential solutions in Bronx, NY.

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise suggests alternative route to avoid traffic congestion: go straight instead of making a left turn.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise and others discuss complex intersection with multiple approaches and prioritizing pedestrian safety.

Action Items

- Provide updated traffic analysis to address concerns about potential increased congestion.
- Consider reducing speed limit along entire Bruckner Boulevard corridor for safety.
- Install additional signage and use of reflective materials to improve visibility and education around share spaces and bike/scooter regulations.
- Schedule follow up meeting with community board once construction plans are finalized before implementation ahead of new school year.